

Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater District  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 20, 2002

The meeting was held at the BLM Garnet Field Office in Missoula, Montana.

RAC members in attendance: Doug Boggan, David Nelson, Ben O'Neal, Bruce Brewer, Cora Patterson, William Madonna, Bryan Rowder, Dan Rix and John Barker and BLM UCSC RAC Coordinator, Stephanie Snook.

Since there were new members in attendance, a quick introduction was made by each person.

JUNE FIELD TRIP

The meeting scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, will include a field trip/tour. The RAC identified several issues/topics that they are interested in seeing and hearing more about.

Theme: Resource Management in Progress – Succession of Change

Issues/Topics:

Noxious Weeds – what is being done to control them  
Forest Health issues and projects, Fire Planning, urban interface and restoration efforts  
Grazing success stories and Standards and Guidelines Review process  
OHV – road conditions, use, trail system  
Cooperative/coordinated efforts with the Forest Service

The RAC wants to know what issues BLM has to deal with and to understand how the RAC can help provide some recommendations.

Stephanie agreed to ask the Field Managers what they can provide in the way of a tour that would cover the above subjects.

RANGELAND STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Doug Boggan gave a summary of the process used by the RAC in developing the Rangeland Standards and Guidelines. The RAC was involved in the full spectrum of these and BLM provided the RAC with the topics. Some of the most difficult situations involved getting agreement on the “little words” that could be interpreted differently. They worked on stubble height, monitoring methods, defining “erosion” since it is different in each area, deferred water quality to the State, and wrote definitions. The document was sent to the other RACs for their review. There was not consensus on the Standards and Guidelines. A subgroup was developed to do fact-finding and they brought the information back to the full RAC for a vote. They did not always meet face to face and had several conference calls.

Doug asked if there would be basis range training for the new RAC members. Stephanie will check on this as it is a requirement identified in the RAC Charter.

FEE DEMO SUBGROUP– We reviewed the list of people on the fee demo subgroup from the October meeting and asked if there were any others interested. The subgroup will be composed of Doug Boggan, Hope Benedict, Louise Stark, Cora Patterson and Dan Rix. The purpose of the subgroup will be to gather information and input from others and work with the Salmon-Challis Forest employees. Recommendations will be made to the full RAC for any decisions.

Bill Madonna brought up the need to streamline and simplify the RAC Renomination Process. This can be discussed further at the next meeting.

Ground Rules for the RAC will be discussed at the next meeting.

Stephanie told the RAC that the new BLM Idaho State Director, K Lynn Bennett, is a former BLM employee and handed out a news article about him.

NATIONAL RAC VIDEO CONFERENCE – watched the conference via satellite. Kathy Richmond, UCSC RAC Chair, represented the RAC and Idaho well.

#### LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL

After lunch the RAC had a presentation on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Efforts from Dick Flicker, Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Coordinator and Pete Sozzi, Idaho's Coordinator from UCSC Salmon Field Office.

They explained the location of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through Idaho, primarily in Lemhi County near Salmon and the Lolo Trail, near Lewiston, and along the Clearwater River. As to how many people can be expected to visit these areas – it may depend on the price of gas and the war with Iraq.

Pete passed out several brochures: National Park Service overview, Idaho map showing partnership efforts, and BLM-Salmon FO Back Country Byway.

The official start of the Bicentennial will be at Monticello on January 14-19, 2003 and will continue through 2006. Several “Signature” events are planned, including one in Great Falls on July 4, 2005. There is a lot of interest in the Bicentennial from the Tribes to various corporations. The Bicentennial is referred to as a Commemoration rather than a celebration because some of the Tribes feel the westward expansion of the white people is not a cause for celebration.

The services needed to address safety concerns with the increase in people visiting these areas was recognized. All of the Sheriffs met with BLM, each other and Senator Larry Craig. They identified a need for more radios, ambulances and people. Six counties in Idaho and Montana worked together and received \$2.5 million to help acquire these items.

The Salmon FO is already seeing an increase in visitor use, compared to the 3 to 4 vehicles a day over Lemhi Pass a few years ago, there are now 70 to 80 vehicles/day.

The Sacajawea Center in Salmon included a \$1 million grant from HUD. The City of Salmon purchased 77 acres of land just east of Salmon. BLM will contribute \$500,000 over the next five years and assist with developing interpretive signs, trails, and other facilities. So far, BLM has given \$139,000 toward development at this site.

A Downtown Park is an effort by the community to provide a location, on Main Street in Salmon. BLM is helping by supplying personnel with expertise to help guide them. At Tendoy, 26 miles east of Salmon, the local Post Master and store owner provides interpretation and information to visitors under a Service Agreement with BLM. BLM personnel from Salmon have also worked with the schools and, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Sawtooth Science Institute, they created a Teachers In-Service Training program. Salmon FO has two Park Rangers who work at Lemhi Pass, with the schools, and help provide interpretation of the Expedition's time in the Salmon area. A trail system is also being considered in Salmon.

Along the Clearwater, in the Cottonwood Field Office area, a new recreation site was just completed, Pink House. Other recreation sites in the District are being upgraded to accommodate the expected visitors. Sharkey Hot Springs, 10 miles northeast of Salmon was recently developed and is open to the public. Tower Rock Recreation Site, 10 miles north of Salmon is currently being reconstructed to include RV and tent sites, a new boat ramp with fishing pier. A recent donation of 40 acres up Tower Creek allowed BLM to acquire the "pyramids" mentioned in the journals so the area will become a local park/picnic site and allow the public to see the towers.

#### MONTANA CONSENSUS COUNCIL SURVEY

Stephanie discussed the request from the group and the RAC members present completed the survey. Stephanie will send these in and will share the results when they are received.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 12 and 13, 2003 at the C'Mon Inn in Missoula, MT

Minutes from this meeting were approved by the RAC on March 13, 2003.